

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk of the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
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To State Water Board,



As I am sure you are aware of the plight of the Sacramento - San Joaquin River Delta and the rivers that are dying from lack of water for the many plants, animals and fish dependant on adequate water flows to survive.

At least one half of the natural water flow from the San Joaquin River should reach the Delta for the first six months of year. Flow during the summer months should be sufficient to maintain water quality and temperature for fish and wildlife. Low flows impede fish passage, concentrate pollutants, raise water temperature and decrease dissolved oxygen.

San Joaquin fish populations have decreased from a population exceeding 400,000 fish to less than a few thousand in recent years.

Salmon are a keystone species providing food for many other animals and transporting nutrients for the ocean to upland habitats.

The commercial salmon fishery has suffered with the closure of two seasons of commercial fishing.

Through better water management through water efficient irrigation practices, and replacing lower value water intensive with higher-value water efficient crops, the state could grow more food with less water.

As a California citizen concerned about the direction the state is taking to project our wildlife, I urge you to take the advice of those working to protect our environment and increase water for fish and wildlife.

Chuck Hammerstad
Conservation Committee Chairman
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